



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Dealers reminded about pesticide sales, safety

TOPEKA -- Pesticide dealers should, before business peaks in May and June, verify that their employees understand the rules that govern pesticide sales and that they know how to handle the products safely.

Safe handling directions are included on all pesticide product labels. Dealers should refer to those labels for their own safety, and to ensure the safety of their employees and customers. Many labels include the manufacturer's phone number for questions not answered by the label. Questions may also be directed to the Kansas Department of Agriculture's pesticide and fertilizer program at (785) 296-3786.

### Points to remember:

- It is unlawful to sell pesticide products in anything other than the manufacturer's original, unopened container bearing the complete product label. Small packages that come in larger, sealed containers often do not contain complete label information and must not be sold separately.
- It is unlawful and unsafe to recommend that a pesticide be used in any way not clearly defined on the product label.
- It is unlawful to sell or distribute misbranded products. A product is considered misbranded if the label is illegible or contains incorrect information.
- It is unlawful to sell or distribute products in torn or broken containers repaired with tape, containers that have product residue on the outside surface, and containers that are marked with an incorrect net contents statement.
- Containers that have pesticide residue on the outside surface are unsafe and may not be offered for sale. Handle the containers with chemical-resistant gloves, segregate them from other containers and keep them away from public areas. Contact the product distributor for more directions on safely handling the item.
- Spills should be cleaned up as soon as possible, especially when they occur in a public area. Follow the manufacturer's directions to ensure that clean-up is done in a manner that protects employees and anyone who could come in contact with the area.

Pesticide sales are regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Redenticide Act, or FIFRA, and the Kansas Agricultural Chemical Act. Also, the Kansas Pesticide Law requires pesticide dealers to register and report annual sales of restricted use pesticides. Violating these laws can trigger significant enforcement actions, including civil penalties up to \$5,500 and revocation of a pesticide dealer's registration.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture's pesticide and fertilizer program protects public health by enforcing the statutes and regulations that govern chemicals used to control pests or enhance plant growth.